machinery etc to Boost Exports Liberalisation in the Import of

740. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced further liberalisation in the import of machinery and decided to make available raw materials at international prices to certain industries in a renewed bill to increase exports;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to prevent the misuse of the concessions by the exporting firms?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) to (c) The Govrenment had recently decided that the facility of supply of raw materials at internaional prices will be extended to all major export sectors where raw materials are used for export production. This facility may cover not only inputs for manufacture but also process accessories if they form a high percentage in the cost structure. Details of the proposal will be worked out on a case by case basis in consultation with the concerned Ministries. It may be recalled that the principle of supply of raw materials at international prices is already applicable to iron and steel, steel alloys and it was recently decided to extend it to aluminium and aluminium-based industries primarily to help engineering exports.

It has also been decided in principle to allow import of capital goods for export production in respect of the identified thrust industries. This is felt to be necessary both in creation of raw capacities in the export sector as well as to upgrade technology and improve the qualify of products. It is proposed that subject to the condition that the particular items of machinery are not available in the country for selected sectors with very high export potential, such machinery may be allowed to be imported either free of duty or at very low rates of duty. This principle has already been applied to import of leather goods, diamond cutting and polishing tools and selected equipments for marine products and there is evidence to suggest that as a result of reduction of duties investment in these areas is taking place and technologies are being upgraded.

Actual implementation of these decisions will be made on a case basis to avoid possibility of any misuse.

Price of Raw Jute in West Bengal

741. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the price of raw jute W5 in the open market in different parts of West Bengal as on the 31st October, 1986?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): The prices at which W5 grade of raw jute was purchased by the Jute Corporation of India in different parts of West Bengal as on 31st October, 1986 were the same as the statutory minimum price fixed by the Government for 1986-87 season, which is as under: —

	Price in Rs./Quintal W 5
I.—Upcountry market in West Bengal :	
1. Coochbehar, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling Districts.	233·00
2. West Dinajpur and Malda District	238·00
3. Musrhibad, Bankura and Birbhum Districts	241·50
4. Nadia, Midnapur, Burdwan, 24 Paraganas, Hoogly and Howrah Dirtricts.	245·50
II.—At Calcutta	296·00